

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/820,245

Examiner

Pho M. Luu

Applicant(s)

BYEON ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 July 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/1/04; 04/06/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search History.

ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.
2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on July 02, 2004. These drawing are acceptable.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form PTO-1449, filed October 1, 2004. The information disclosed therein was considered.

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form PTO-1449, filed April 06, 2004. The information disclosed therein was considered.

Allowance

5. Claims 1-24 is allowance.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to: "a control circuit that is configured to block performance of the first operation on the flash memory array in

response to detecting an indication from the address compare circuit that the applied row address is without the unlock area of the flash memory array in a flash memory device" as claimed in the independent claim 1; or

"a primary control circuit that is configured to generate a command enable signal in response to the command and the unlock signal" as claimed in the independent claim 10; or

"comparing the applied address with the start and end addresses to determine whether the erase or program command is to be performed on the unlock area of a method of operation a flash memory device" as claimed in the independent claim 17; or

"comparing the applied row address to the end row address to determine whether the applied row address is less than or equal to the end row address of a method of operating a flash memory device" as claimed in the independent claim 20; or

"a second control circuit that is configured to block performance of the first operation on the second flash memory array in response to detecting an indication from the second address compare circuit that the applied address is without the unlock area of the second flash memory array in a flash memory system" as claimed in the independent claim 21.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Garner (US. 6,549,482) disclosed a flash memory is partitioned into a plurality of memory block and in which operation are performed on a selected block in the device.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is 571.272.1876. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on 571.272.1869. The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306 for all official communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PML
August 1 2005


ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER